

# The Accounting Historians Notebook

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## Minutes of trustee's meeting [1988]; Minutes of annual business meeting [1988]

Alfred Robert Roberts

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August 14, 1988, Marriott's Orlando World Center, Orlando, Florida, 2:00 p.m.

Present—Abdel M. Agami, Maureen H. Berry, Ashton C. Bishop, Jr., Richard P. Brief, Edward N. Coffman, Kenneth O. Elvik, Eugene H. Flegm, Dale L. Flesher, Barbara D. Merino, Lee D. Parker, Alfred R. Roberts, Elliott L. Slocum, Mary S. Stone, Richard G. Vangermeersch.

President Flesher opened the meeting at 2:25 and welcomed the group.

Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Edward N. Coffman, presented some comments as a "starting point" for the development of a five-year strategic plan for The Academy. These comments are primarily to get a dialogue started as to what and where The Academy should be in the future. The objectives of The Academy he listed are to: encourage research, encourage publication, encourage teaching and encourage personal exchanges. It was acknowledged that much of what The Academy does presently supports these objectives. An organization chart was presented showing the various positions and functions of The Academy. It is suggested that an operations manual be compiled for each function on the organization chart and that a system of reporting be established for each position.

Increases in both individual and institutional membership is necessary for the maintenance and expansion of Academy activities. It is recommended that the Endowment Fund be raised to the amount of \$100,000 within the next five years. To replace ad hoc type committees, it is recommended that the following standing committees be established:

Accounting History Education Committee

Accounting History Research Methodology Committee

Publicity Committee  
 Membership Committee  
 Oral History Committee  
 "Think Tank" Committee

The establishment of the position of Historian-Archivist is proposed. The Archives would be maintained in the Accounting History Research Center.

The Academy should coordinate with other history groups to our mutual advantage. This might encompass workshops, conferences and other interactions. In conjunction with such interactions, the Accounting History Research Center and the Tax History Research Center should position themselves to serve and enhance accounting history and tax history research. They should serve as resource bases and also service Academy members by holding workshops, seminars, and other functions at least every other year.

After extended discussion it was proposed by Richard Vangermeersch and seconded by Elliott L. Slocum that the proposals be accepted and be put into operational form at the Trustees' meeting to be held in December in Oxford, Mississippi. The motion passed. Edward N. Coffman was to inform non-attending Trustees and officers of what had transpired with regard to this proposal. It was also suggested that the Trustees discuss where The Academy wants to be at the end of five years and determine strategy, goals and implementation.

Kenneth O. Elvik, Treasurer, presented audited financial statements for the year 1987. Statements for the period 1/1/88 to 6/30/88 and a budget for the calendar year 1989 were distributed. It was noted, with thanks, that General Motors had contributed \$2,500 for the support of the Tax History Research Center, and that Arthur Andersen & Co. Foundation had contributed \$3,000 for the continuing support of Academy functions. An increase in the sale of back issues of the *Accounting Historians Journal* was due to the sale of 25 complete sets of the *Journal* to a

German book agency. The report also indicated that there is a constant increase in printing and postage costs for Academy publications. All questions having been satisfactorily answered, it was moved, seconded, and passed that the reports be accepted and approved.

Those present at the meeting offered a vote of thanks to Kenneth O. Elvik for his outstanding service as Treasurer of The Academy during the last four years. With membership approval, this position will be assumed by Rasoul H. (Ross) Tondkar on January 1, 1989.

Alfred R. Roberts, Secretary, presented the following information with regard to membership as of June 30, 1988 for the 1988 membership year:

	Domestic	Non-Domestic	Totals	%
Individuals	335	116	451	62
Institutions	197	79	276	38
Totals	532	195	727	—
%	73	27	—	100

Members reside in 27 countries in addition to the United States, and 48 states plus D.C. and Puerto Rico are represented. As of July 30, 1987, membership was 666 and by December was 729. The report was accepted and approved.

Roberts presented an analysis of the approximate income from member dues. This was noted and compared with the cost of supplying members with Academy publications. It was moved by Lee D. Parker and seconded that the dues for individuals and institutions be raised to \$27 and \$40, respectively, for 1989. An amended motion by Barbara Merino was seconded that the dues be \$25 and \$40, respectively. The amended motion was passed. Therefore, the dues structure for 1989 to be presented at the business meeting will be as follows:

Individuals	\$25.00
Institutions	\$40.00
Doctoral Students	\$ 7.50

Roberts presented four proposed amendments to The Academy Bylaws:

1. Article IV, Section 2., be amended to read, in part, "...The number of Trustees shall not be less than *twelve* nor more than *twenty*..."

2. Article IV, Section 4., be amended to read, in part, "...A quorum shall consist of *eight* Trustees..."

3. Article IV, Section 1., be amended to read, "The President of The Academy shall preside at *all* meetings of The Academy, *other than meetings of the Board of Trustees*..." and the following sentences be added at the beginning of Article IV, Section 4., "A Chairman of the Board of Trustees shall be elected at an appropriate meeting of the Board of Trustees. The elected Chairman will hold that office for a term to be specified, but no longer than one three-year term, and may not serve consecutive three-year terms. The Chairman will preside at meetings of the Board of Trustees. In the absence of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, these duties shall be discharged by the President, or alternatively by the President-Elect, or a Vice President, according to numerical order."

4. Article V, Section 4., be amended to read, in part "An agenda of all meetings should be reported to members *at least three weeks* before the annual meetings."

It was moved, seconded, and approved that the amendments be presented to the members at the business meeting.

Upon a motion presented by Roberts and seconded, it was approved that the amount of \$2,000 annually be made available to the Secretary of The Academy for clerical assistance.

Barbara D. Merino, Vice-President, stated that she would relinquish the function of Book Review Editor of the *Journal*. This function will be assumed by Patti A. Mills of Indiana State University.

The Academy of Accounting Historians 1988 Accounting History Manuscript Award was presented to Jan Heier, Auburn University at Montgomery.

Barbara Merino will service the mailing of back issues of *The Accounting Historians Journal*. This function has been

handled by Ross H. Tondkar.

Lee D. Parker, Chairman, the Accounting History Research Methodology Committee, reported that the bibliography of research methodology is completed and the text is in laser printed form. This 246 page book was edited by Lee D. Parker and O. Finley Graves. Publication delay is due to getting final permissions. As soon as permissions are granted, the book will be published by Garland Press. The publication date is expected in 1989 or 1990. Parker hopes that with such a data base members will be encouraged to write papers on historical methodology. He also feels that there is the potential to sponsor one- or two-day conferences on historical methodology.

Gary John Previts, Manuscripts Editor, *The Accounting Historians Journal*, submitted the following manuscripts report for the period August 1, 1987 to August 8, 1988:

Accepted	10
Accepted pending publication	3
Accepted—commissioned	1
Being revised by author(s)	6
Being reviewed by references	9
Second round revisions	1
Rejected after review	14
Returned to author without review	3
Referred to other outlets	2
Withdrawn by author(s)	3
Awaiting submission fee	1
Commissioned	2
Total in process	55

Mary S. Stone, Production Editor, stated that she is working on a guidance sheet for authors to help streamline the production process. She also reported that Birmingham Publishing has increased its price by \$1.00 per unit. The printer has suggested that the printing run be increased by 200 to 500 units due to the increase in authors, associate editors and others who receive complementary copies of *The Journal*. There was some discussion that perhaps authors and reviewers receive too many copies in relation to what is given by other journals. This procedure will be reviewed during the year to see if cost savings can be affected. There will also be a review of the exchange listings with other journals. It appears that some journals do not reciprocate.

Maureen H. Berry, Editor, Doctoral Research, has reduced her review to one paper per issue. Her in-depth review results in more comments on methodology, but she is finding it difficult to discern historical methodology in items reviewed.

Dale L. Flesher, Editor, *The Accounting Historians Notebook*, stated that he had changed the masthead on the publication. He requested that items of interest to the members be submitted to him. After nine years as editor, Dale indicated that it might be time to start looking for a replacement in the near future.

Rasoul H. (Ross) Tondkar, Editor, Working Paper Series, submitted a report indicating that working papers 72, 73, 74, and 75 have been issued. During the period 9-1-87 through 8-14-88, four papers have been received and, after review, four papers have been accepted. A promotional flyer was distributed during the year to Academy members and libraries encouraging them to purchase the Working Paper Series. Working Paper volumes sold or shipped during the year were: Vol. 1, 37; Vol. 2, 41; Vol. 3, 52. It is estimated that Vol. 4 will be printed in early 1989 at an approximate cost of \$7,000 for 1,000 copies.

James L. Boockholdt, Editor, Monograph Series, submitted a report that four manuscripts had been received for consideration and all had been rejected. The Trustees are to look into establishing some guidelines for the series and give some indication as to the purpose of the series.

Richard P. Brief, Editor of the Garland Press accounting history reprint series, stated that the four books of The Academy's Classics Series would be reprinted by Garland with a separate page indicating that these were part of the Academy of Accounting Historians Classics Series. He also indicated the possibility of Academy members getting a fifty percent discount on certain publications. Details will be made known at a later date. There is some discussion at

Garland that there may be future reprints of accounting history books but perhaps in smaller numbers and more frequently.

Abdel M. Agami, Chairman, The Accounting Education Committee, reported that a second edition of biographies of notable accountants was in process. Seventeen biographies have been commissioned and four have been received. The complete manuscript is due at the publisher in October and should be out in January 1989 in time for the regional and annual AAA meetings. The major problem encountered by the committee is how to increase the amount of accounting history in undergraduate courses. They are also concerned what should be in history courses and how history can be integrated into courses at all levels. Lee D. Parker suggested that the committee receive a letter from The Academy acknowledging the problem and state its position so that the committee will have some guidance. This matter should be taken up at the Trustee's meeting in December.

Rita M. Hull, Chairman, The Membership Committee, reported that 72 letters had been sent to 1987 members who had not renewed for 1988. So far ten former members have renewed on the forms provided. Letters were sent to 49 members whose libraries were not members of The Academy requesting them to encourage their libraries to join. Walker Fesmire is to write to doctoral coordinators asking them to distribute membership brochures to doctoral students. Members in Great Britain, Italy and Canada have been appointed and asked to identify potential members in their countries for follow-up contact. Committee members have been asked to write to state CPA societies recommending that retired members join The Academy. Also each committee member is to write to ten individuals urging them to join.

Elliott L. Slocum, Co-Director, The Accounting History Research Center, presented his report. It was noted that Norman X. Dressel had died on August 30, 1987. In January 1988 the Center

published and distributed 350 copies of the *Proceedings* related to the dedication of The Accounting History Research Center at Georgia State University which was held November 10 and 11, 1985. During 1988, two sets of *The Accounting Historians Journal* were bound at a cost of \$420. Mr. Andrew Barr has donated a complete set of the *Accounting Review* to the Center. This collection will be bound at an approximate cost of \$2000. Mr. Barr has agreed to cover the cost of binding.

Dale L. Flesher reported on the Tax History Research Center. The space provided in the School of Accountancy by the University of Mississippi has been repainted and carpeted and an air conditioner has been installed. A grant from General Motors in the amount of \$2,500 will be used to secure bookshelves and furniture for the Center.

It was announced that there will be a dedication of The Tax History Research Center, December 2-3, 1988, at The University of Mississippi, Oxford, Mississippi. This conference will encompass a dedication ceremony and papers by accounting and tax historians. In addition, there will be a Trustees' meeting during the conference. While outside funding will be sought to cover the cost of the conference, it is recognized as an Academy sponsored function and the Trustees authorized up to \$1,000 to deal with any short fall of outside funding.

Secretary Roberts presented to the Trustees the nominees for the various offices for 1989. The slate was approved for presentation at the Business Meeting. (Note: See the Minutes of the Business Meeting.)

President-Elect Eugene H. Flegm presented some of his thoughts on what he intends to accomplish during his year as President. Eugene H. Flegm will be the first non-academic president of The Academy and will bring the perspective of a practitioner-historian who intends to be pro-active and try to involve more practitioners in the organization. He will aid in developing proposals for obtaining

Roberts: Minutes of trustee's meeting [1988]; Minutes of annual business meeting [1988]  
financial support for research and will support efforts to increase membership.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alfred R. Roberts  
Secretary, AAH

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## CONFERENCE TO DEDICATE TAX HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

A conference is to be held on December 2 and 3, 1988, to dedicate the opening of the Academy's Tax History Research Center at the University of Mississippi. The conference will also celebrate the diamond jubilee of the 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Some of the leading accounting and tax historians in the nation have indicated their willingness to participate. The keynote speakers will be former American Accounting Association presidents, Harold Q. Langenderfer of the University of North Carolina and James Don Edwards of the University of Georgia. Other participants will include Paul Garner and William Samson of the University of Alabama, Maureen Berry of the University of Illinois, Gary John Previts of Case Western Reserve University, Larry Crumbley of Texas A&M, Anna Fowler of the University of Texas, Roxanne Johnson of the University of Baltimore, and Eugene Flegm of General Motors.

## NEW SERIES FROM GARLAND

*Foundations of Accounting*, a new series published by Garland Publishing Inc., includes new hardback editions of The Academy's Classics Series, edited by Gary John Previts. These include James Don Edwards, *History of Public Accounting in the United States*; Paul S. Garner, *Evolution of Cost Accounting*, A.C. Littleton, *Accounting Evolution to 1900* and James Don Edwards and Roland F. Salmonson, *Contributions of Four Accounting Pioneers*. The last volume is being reprinted for the first time. In addition, the collection contains 23 never-before published titles and several other volumes including complete collections of articles in *The Book-keeper* and *The American Counting Room*, the first accounting journal in America. Included in the new books are P.L. McMickle and Paul H. Jensen, *The Birth of American Accountancy*, Patti A. Mills, translator, *The Legal Literature of Accounting*, Lee D. Parker, editor, *Financial Reporting to Employees*, Terry L. Sheldahl, editor, *Accounting Literature in the United States Before Mitchell and Jones*, Richard G. Vangermeersch, *Alexander Hamilton Church, A Man of Ideas for all Seasons* and Stephen A. Zeff, editor, *The U.S. Accounting Profession in the 1890s and Early 1900s*. A catalog can be obtained from Garland Publishing, 136 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016.

# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

August 15, 1988, Marriott Orlando World Center, Orlando, Florida, 8:30 a.m.

Approximately 30 members were in attendance.

President Flesher called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. and welcomed members and guests. He gave a recapitulation of the major points covered in the Trustees' meeting. He then acknowledged, with thanks, the gift of \$3,000 from the Arthur Andersen & Co. Foundation and the gift of \$2,500 from General Motors Corporation. The discussion document prepared by Edward N. Coffman, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, was summarized and President Flesher stated that it will be the subject of the Trustees' meeting to be held in early December.

Treasurer Elvik distributed copies of the financial statements and the 1989 budget proposals. Specific items were discussed and questions from the members were answered. He cautioned again that it is difficult to match the budgeted amounts that are for the calendar year with the actual timing of the cash receipts and disbursements that relate to that calendar year. However, the budget is adhered to in general.

Since Kenneth O. Elvick will turn over the responsibilities of the Treasurer to Rasoul H. (Ross) Tondkar on January 1, 1989, the membership gave a vote of thanks to Ken for four years of outstanding service as the Treasurer of The Academy.

Secretary Roberts presented statistics on membership, similar to those at the Trustee's Meeting, and answered questions from members.

Secretary Roberts distributed copies of four amendments to The Academy Bylaws for discussion and comment. The logic of amendments 1 and 2 was explained as being a correction of the balance between officer-trustees and non-officer-trustees. The number of elected officers has increased since the bylaws were first written.

Amendment 3 was the creation of the office of Chairman of the Board of Trustees and the term of that office. Amendment 4 established the requirement that the agenda for the annual meeting must be sent to the membership at least three weeks before the meeting. After some discussion and questions, the amendments were approved unanimously.

The proposal for a change in the dues structure for 1989, which was approved by the Trustees, was presented to the members. There was some discussion but upon movement and second, the motion passed with one dissenting vote. The dues for 1989 will be: Individuals, \$25.00; Institutions, \$40.00; and Doctoral students, \$7.50.

Vice-President Merino introduced the chairman of the committees on Accounting Education, and Accounting History Research Methodology who gave their reports. The report of the Membership Committee was read by Vice-President Merino. These reports were similar to those recorded in the Minutes of the Board of Trustees. In addition Peter McMickle reported on the booth set up in the exhibit area at the AAA meeting.

Vice-President Parker introduced reports of the editors of the various Academy publications. The reports were similar to those recorded in the Minutes of the Board of Trustees.

Elliott L. Slocum, Co-director of The Accounting History Research Center, presented his report. Dale L. Flesher presented the report for The Tax History Research Center in the absence of Tonya K. Flesher, Director of the Tax History Research Center.

Vice-President Merino, Chairman of the committee for The Academy of Accounting Historians Accounting History Manuscripts Award, reported that her committee of five persons had evaluated manuscripts from recent Ph.D.s. Jan

Heier, Auburn University at Montgomery, was given the first award and the article will be submitted to *The Accounting Historians Journal* for consideration.

President Flesher presented the 1988 President's Hourglass Award to Peter L. McMickle and Richard G. Vangermeersch. Their significant contribution to accounting literature, *Origins of a Great Profession*, includes 57 illustrations from the Montgomery Collection at Columbia University and comments on these illustrations. The monograph was published in honor of the Centennial of the American Institute of CPAs.

Secretary Roberts presented the following nominees for offices to the membership:

**OFFICERS (one-year term)**

- President: Eugene H. Flegm (General Motors)
- President-Elect: Barbara D. Merino (Univ. of North Texas)
- Vice-President: Lee D. Parker (Flinders Univ. of S. Australia)
- Vice-President: Tonya K. Flesher (Mississippi)
- Treasurer: Rasoul H. (Ross) Tondkar (Virginia Commonwealth)
- Secretary: Ashton C. Bishop, Jr. (James Madison)

**TRUSTEES (three-year term — 1989-1991):**

Edward N. Coffman (Virginia Commonwealth), Dale L. Flesher (Mississippi), Thomas J. Nessinger (Arthur Andersen & Co.), Gary John Previts (Case Western Reserve), Alfred R. Roberts (Georgia State)

It was moved, seconded and the slate was approved.

President Flesher presented Secretary Roberts with a plaque for 15 years of service as the principal administrative officer of The Academy. As of January 1, 1989, the Secretary's functions will be assumed by Ashton C. Bishop, Jr. of James Madison University. The new address of The Academy will be:

The Academy of Accounting Historians  
School of Accounting  
James Madison University  
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22807, USA  
Secretary Roberts, in turn, presented President Flesher with a plaque recognizing his term as President of The Academy.  
President-Elect Flegm gave some of his

educational background and experience in accounting. He related his "continuing education" with today's problems in financial reporting and apparent shift in the profession and education from theory to rules and rule compliance. He feels that part of the cause of the many problems in accounting today is due to the failure of accountants to understand the history of their own profession. He intends to become pro-active in relations with the AAA and try to establish symposia on accounting by preparers. In addition, he intends to actively seek financial support for the Academy functions and to increase membership.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Respectively submitted,  
Alfred R. Roberts  
Secretary, AAH  
September 16, 1988

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**MANUSCRIPTS AND SHAGGY DOG STORIES**

Anyone wishing to submit article manuscripts, short notes, cartoons, shaggy dog stories, letters to the editor, or other filler to THE ACCOUNTING HISTORIANS NOTEBOOK should send the material to be editor, Dale L. Flesher, School of Accountancy, University of Mississippi, University, MS 38677

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